

Resolution Regarding Inclusion of Sustainability in University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Strategic Planning Initiatives

Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability
May 6, 2016

Sustainability may be generally thought of as people meeting their present needs in ways that do not reduce options for people in the future to meet their own needs. The concept of sustainability is broad and inclusive, and requires simultaneously addressing social, economic and environmental needs.

The Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES) recognizes that

1. UWL's current vision statement asserts that our university "aims to foster within each student the curiosity, creativity, and tenacity necessary to solve the regional, national, and international challenges of the 21st century."
2. Perhaps the ultimate challenge for our students will be to effectively address society's social, economic and environmental practices from a sustainability perspective.
3. Sustainability perspectives are commonly featured in courses and in faculty research programs among all three UWL colleges. Examples of these themes include social justice, environmental pollution, transportation, community health, sustainable business practices, economic strategies, conservation needs, and environmental policy.
4. UWL facilities and organizational practices in many areas of the university offer excellent opportunities to use UWL as a living classroom to study sustainability.
5. Increasingly, businesses and organizations require that their new hires and company leaders understand how sustainability improves their operations and bottom line.

Given that our essential purpose includes recommending actions that promote sustainability on our campus, JCES resolves that sustainability be prominently and effectively included in all current (2016) and future institutional strategic planning discussions and decisions at UWL.